REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-12 are amended. Support for the amendments to claims 1-12 can be found, for example, in original claims 1-12 and in the instant specification at page 2, lines 1 to 5. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0144649 to Ghodoussi et al. ("Ghodoussi"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1 recites "[a] remote control method for remotely controlling a robot controller through a universal communication network ... comprising: enabling the general-purpose terminal to remotely control the robot controller ... and performing a predetermined operation on the robot controller using the general-purpose terminal" (emphasis added). Claim 7 recites "[a] remote control system for remotely controlling a robot controller through a universal communication ... a functional connecting device disposed on a robot controller-side of the network, the functional connecting device being capable of enabling the general-purpose terminal to remotely control the robot controller through the universal communication network ... " (emphasis added). Ghodoussi does not teach or suggest such a method or such a system.

The Office Action asserts that Ghodoussi discloses a remote control method of remotely controlling a robot controller through a universal communication network using a terminal disposed remotely from the robot controller. The Office Action further asserts that Ghodoussi discloses a remote control system including a functional connecting device that is capable of enabling a terminal to remotely control a robot controller over a universal

-5-

communication network. Notwithstanding these assertions, Ghodoussi does not anticipate and would not have rendered obvious claims 1 and 7.

Each of claims 1 and 7 relates to the use of a general-purpose terminal to control a robot controller through a universal communication network. While Ghodoussi discloses a system for remotely performing surgery (*see, e.g.,* paragraph [0026]), the apparatus and methods described in Ghodoussi to not address the shortcomings of known systems, as do the method of claim 1 and the system of claim 7. Namely, Ghodoussi relies on elaborate control units 50, 52 to control articulate arms 16, 18, 20, 22 holding surgical instruments 26, 28, 30, 32. *See, e.g.,* paragraph [0028]; FIG. 1. These control units are neither portable nor commonly available. That is, the control units shown in Ghodoussi present precisely the problems identified in the background of the instant specification. The systems and methods of Ghodoussi require special devices to monitor and control a remote surgical robots, making remote control expensive, and greatly limiting the locations where control and monitoring can be conducted. *See, e.g.,* instant specification, page 1, lines 23 to 31. Nowhere does Ghodoussi teach or suggest using a general-purpose terminal to control the disclosed surgical robots.

The method of claim 1 and the system of claim 7, by contrast, employ general-purpose terminals to remotely control a robot controller. General-purpose terminals such as, for example, personal computers, have become ubiquitous, thus providing increased versatility. *See, e.g.,* instant specification, page 6, line 14. Such terminals do not require dedicated software, rather a general web browser can be used. *See, e.g.,* instant specification, page 6, lines 15 to 19. Moreover, connection software can be downloaded to a general-purpose terminal from a robot controller-side of a network. *See, e.g.,* instant specification, page 8, lines 10 to 16. The systems and methods of Ghodoussi employ a controller on a terminal-side of a network. *See* paragraph [0029]. In the method of claim 1 and the system of claim 7, it is

not necessary for a controller to be present on the terminal-side of the network. Each of these limitations on the systems and methods of Ghodoussi drastically reduces the feasibility of the systems and methods for applications other than remote surgery.

Ghodoussi does not recognize the problems inherent in remote control systems requiring specialized terminals or propose any solutions therefor. The method of claim 1 and the system of claim 7 provide flexibility of operation that was not contemplated or accomplished by Ghodoussi. As Ghodoussi does not disclose or suggest systems or methods of remotely controlling a robot controller using a general-purpose terminal, Ghodoussi does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of claims 1 and 7.
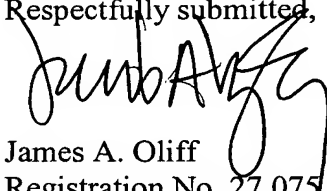
Claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Ghodoussi. Claims 2-6 and 8-13 depend variously from claims 1 and 7 and, thus, also are not anticipated by Ghodoussi. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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